

EXPLORING INUIT CULTURE CURRICULUM

Aligning to the New York State Core Curriculum



By Rosa Flynn

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The New York Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum mandates Canadian Studies in the grade 5 social studies program, stressing geographic, economic and social/cultural understandings. ***Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*** is designed to fulfill the Content Understandings specified in the Social Studies Core Curriculum, as well as learning standards set forth in:

- ***English Language Arts Core Curriculum***
- ***Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum Grades 5-8***
- ***Learning Standards for the Arts***

Using a combination of authentic materials developed by the Inuit of Nunavut, Canada and lesson plans aligned to the New York State Core Curriculum, students have the opportunity to explore the rich Inuit culture and unique Canadian Arctic from the perspective of its native people.

The following is a breakdown of ***Exploring Inuit Culture Curriculum*** by lesson plan. Included are the specific learning areas from the New York State Core Curriculum addressed in each lesson.

Section 1: Educational Documentaries on DVD

1 | Qimuksik (Dog Team)

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- Maps and other geographic representations can be used to gather, process and report information about Canada. (Places and Regions)
- Political boundaries change over time and place. (Physical Systems)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Write labels or captions for graphics, such as charts, graphs, and diagrams to convey information.

2 | Aiviaq (Walrus Hunt)

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- The migration of groups of people to Canada has led to cultural diffusion because people carry their ideas and ways of life with them when they move from place to place. (Interdependence)
- Individuals and groups in Canada attempt to satisfy their basic needs and wants by utilizing scarce capital, natural and human resources. (Needs and Wants)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Write personal reactions to experiences and events, using a form of social communication.

Section 1: Educational Documentaries on DVD

3 | Nanugiurutiga (My First Polar Bear)

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- Industrial growth and development and urbanization have had important impacts on Canada. (Change)

Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum Grades 5-8

- Plants and animals depend on each other and their physical environment. (Key Idea 6)
- Human decisions and activities have had a profound impact on the physical and living environment. (Key Idea 7)

4 | Artcirq (Circus School)

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- Types and availability of resources are important to economic development in Canada today. (Factors and Production)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Understand the purpose for writing; the purpose may be to explain, describe, narrate, persuade, or express feelings.

Section 1: Educational Documentaries on DVD

5 | Unakuluk (Dear Little One) – The Inuit Family

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Make connections between text being read and own lives, the lives of others, and other texts read in the past.
- Compare and contrast ideas and information from two sources.

Learning Standards for the Arts

- Demonstrate how art works and artifacts from diverse world cultures reflect aspects of those cultures.

Section 2: Isuma Inuit Studies Reader

6 | The Search for a North-West Passage and the Whalers in the 1800s

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- The migration of groups of people in Canada has led to cultural diffusion because people carry their ideas and ways of life with them when they move from place to place. (Interdependence)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Use strategies, such as note taking, semantic webbing, or mapping, to plan and organize writing.
- Use supporting evidence from text to evaluate ideas, information, themes or experiences.

7 | A Woman's Winter at Baffin Island, 1857-1858

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context clues, a dictionary or a glossary.
- Note and describe aspects of the writer's craft.
- Use correct grammatical construction in parts of speech.
- Acquire new vocabulary by reading a variety of texts.

Section 2: Isuma Inuit Studies Reader

8 | The Eskimo of Baffin Land

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Read, view and interpret texts from a variety of genres.
- Make connections between text being read and own lives, the lives of others, and other texts read in the past.

9 | Across Arctic America

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- Culture and experiences influence people’s perceptions of places and regions in Canada. (Environment and Society)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Read a variety of grade-level texts, for a variety of purposes, with understanding.
- State or summarize a main idea and support/elaborate with relevant details.
- Respond in writing to prompts that follow the reading of literary and informational texts.

Section 2: Isuma Inuit Studies Reader

10 | Nipikti The Old Man Carver and The Giving Tree

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Recognize how different authors treat similar themes.
- Present a point of view or interpretation of a text, such as its theme, and support it with significant details from the text.
- Respect the age, gender, position and cultural traditions of the writer.

Learning Standards for the Arts

- Compare and contrast characters from folklore, myth and plays of diverse cultures.

Section 3: Lesson Plans on Inuit Culture

11 | Nunavut Flag and Coat of Arms

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- Key turning points and events in the history of Canada can be organized into different historical time periods. (Change)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Locate and use school and public library resources, with some direction, to acquire information.

12 | Land of the Midnight Sun – Seasons and the Arctic

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- The physical and human characteristics of places in Canada. (Human Systems)

Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum Grades 5-8

- The earth and celestial phenomena can be described by principles of relative motion and perspective.

13 | My Community vs. Nunavut – Weather and Climate

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- The physical and human characteristics of places in Canada. (Human Systems)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Write labels or captions for graphics, such as charts, graphs, and diagrams, to convey information.

Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum Grades 5-8

- Many of the phenomena that we observe on Earth involve interactions among components of air, water and land.

Section 3: Lesson Plans on Inuit Culture

14 Understanding Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Khao-yee-muh-yah-tut-khang-geet)

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of cultures found in Canada. (Environment and Society)

Learning Standards for the Arts

- Improvise scenes based on information about various culture(s).

15 Inuktitut – The Language of the Inuit of Nunavut

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of cultures found in Canada. (Environment and Society)
- Connections and exchanges exist between and among the people of Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States. (Interdependence)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Understand and write for a variety of audiences.
- Publish writing in a variety of presentation or display mediums, for a variety of audiences.
- Share the process of writing with peers or adults.

Section 3: Lesson Plans on Inuit Culture

16 | Animals of the Arctic

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- The physical and human characteristics of places in the Canada today. (Human Systems)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Use a variety of media, such as print and electronic, when writing.

Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum Grades 5-8

- Plants and animals depend on each other and their physical environment.
- Organisms maintain a dynamic equilibrium that sustains life.

17 | Traditional Foods of the Inuit

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)

Section 3: Lesson Plans on Inuit Culture

18 | Inuit Art and Music

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)
- Individuals and groups in Canada attempt to satisfy their basic needs and wants by utilizing scarce capital, natural and human resources. (Needs and Wants)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Take notes to record and organize relevant data, facts and ideas, with assistance, and use notes as part of pre-writing activities.

Learning Standards for the Arts

- Demonstrate how art works and artifacts from diverse world cultures reflect aspects of those cultures.
- Demonstrate appropriate listening and other participatory responses to music of a variety of genres and cultures.

19 | The Inuit Style of Filmmaking

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)

English Language Arts Core Curriculum

- Take notes to record and organize relevant data, facts, and ideas, with assistance and use notes as part of pre-writing activities.
- Understand and use writing for a variety of purposes.
- Use a variety of media, such as print and electronic, when writing.

Section 3: Lesson Plans on Inuit Culture

20 | Traditional Inuit Games

Social Studies Resource Guide with Core Curriculum

- Different ethnic, national and religious groups have contributed to the cultural diversity of these nations and regions by sharing their customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas and languages. (Culture)